



White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Pageant of Peace Continues a Long Tradition on the Ellipse

The Christmas Pageant of Peace is a Washington tradition during the holiday season. This year the Pageant's opening ceremony featuring the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse will take place on December 7th. After opening night, from dusk on December 8th through January 1st, visitors will have a one of a kind opportunity to enjoy the Christmas Pageant of Peace site featuring the National Christmas Tree; smaller trees representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the 5 U.S. Territories; model trains; and the warmth of the Yule log. Additionally, on evenings from December 9th through December 23rd visitors will be treated to sounds of the Holidays as musical groups from throughout the region will perform on the outdoor Pageant stage.

The tradition of a tree lighting ceremony in the nation's capital began in 1913 when 20,000 onlookers witnessed the lighting of the first Washington Community Christmas Tree on the East Plaza of the Capitol. A decade later, on Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge lit the first National Christmas Tree, a sixty foot evergreen from his home state of Vermont, on the Ellipse.

Today's National Christmas Tree was transplanted from Pennsylvania in 1978. The live 39 foot Colorado blue spruce grows on the Ellipse across from the South Lawn of the White House.

The 2006 Opening Night ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. The free traditional hour long program includes holiday music by a U.S. military band, performances by choral groups, a cheery welcome by Santa Claus, and a holiday message from the President of the United States. For additional information, call 202-208-1631, TTY 202-219-5246, or visit us on the internet at <http://nps.gov/wbho/pageant>. The Pageant site will open at dusk on December 8th and after that will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. through January 1, 2007



The White House Visitor Center offers special Ranger-guided walks through the Pageant of Peace site. (See other side for details)

Garden Tours Showcase History

Each Fall visitors receive a special opportunity to visit the grounds surrounding the White House. Over the years, this historic house and its 18 acres of greenery have been subject to constant change.

Thomas Jefferson is credited as the first president to have a landscaping plan for the White House. President John Quincy Adams was an avid gardener and enjoyed planting seedlings that included herbs and vegetables.

In 1851, during President Millard Fillmore's term, renowned horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing was hired to create a new landscaping plan for the grounds. President Ulysses S. Grant continued a major landscaping program adding two round fountains located on the north and south grounds in the mid-1870's. In 1935, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and his firm Olmsted Brothers developed a landscape design plan for President Franklin Roosevelt, which has served as the guiding landscape plan since that time.

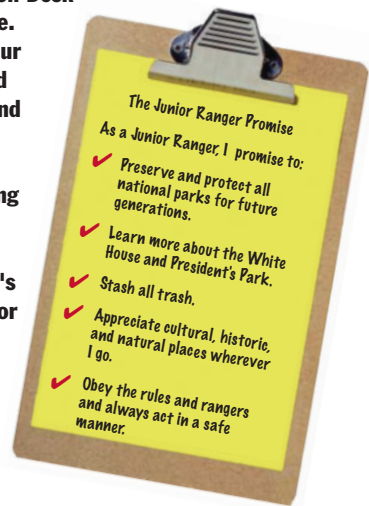
The Rose Garden is a favorite spot for presidential ceremonies. It is located right outside the West Wing. A huge tree near the putting green was chosen by President Carter as the site for his daughter's treehouse. It gave the President the opportunity to see his daughter at play while he worked on the nation's policies.

The Jacqueline Kennedy Gardens are located outside the East Wing, and a Children's Garden, created by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson in 1969 contains handprints and footprints of Presidential grandchildren.

For dates, times and ticket information call 202-208-1631, TTY 202-219-5246, or visit us on the internet at <http://nps.gov/wbho>.

CALLING ALL JR. RANGERS!

Pick up a free copy of the President's Park Junior Ranger Program booklet "On The Spot," available at the Information Desk and online. Return your completed booklet and receive a badge designating you as an official President's Park Junior Ranger!



Around President's Park

Rochambeau Statue

On the southwest corner of Lafayette Park, located across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House sits a recently restored monument to French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau (1725–1807). The statue is the work of sculptor J.J. Fernand Hamar and was dedicated in 1902 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

As a lieutenant general, Comte de Rochambeau commanded a French expeditionary army of over 5,500 men sent to the U.S. in 1780 to bolster America's struggle for independence from Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783). In a most unusual arrangement, the French Foreign Minister, Vergennes, directed that Rochambeau was to place himself subordinate to George Washington, and that the French troops were to be designated auxillaries to the American land forces.

Rochambeau, although far more experienced than

Washington as a military commander, served under Washington with the utmost respect and skill. The French troops were commended by many for their amazing discipline, which is really a reflection upon the quality of the commander. He established what may be the first military newspaper in America. In September 1781, with 3,000 additional French troops arriving, the combined armies of Washington and Rochambeau made their way to Williamsburg, Virginia and swiftly conducted a perfect 18th century siege on the English forces isolated in Yorktown. This was a devastating surprise to the British and led to their surrender on October 19, 1781.

Rochambeau probably did not foresee that his great military moment in history, 225 years ago, helped to establish a foreign democratic republic that would later repay its debt to France by sending its troops to France's assistance in two world wars.



SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

★ OCTOBER FAMILY DAY

Special activities and events are planned for Saturday, October 28th at the Visitor Center. Children can partake of these Family Day programs to catch a glimpse of life in the White House both past and present.

For additional information, call the center at (202) 208-1634. The Family Day event coincides with the first day of the White House fall Garden Tours. Come one, come all!



★ NOVEMBER KIDS CORNER

On Saturday, November 11th between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. the Visitor Center will host a holiday Kids Corner event. Activities and crafts will be demonstrated and available to children of all ages to honor America's veterans who have served this nation in peace as well as in wartime. We also invite you to participate in activities to celebrate Thanksgiving! Let your imagination feast on a banquet of puzzles, crafts and coloring materials to mark this November holiday. *No reservations required.*



★ DECK THE HALLS!

A special program on holiday cookies will be presented, and yes, you'll be able to decorate your own gingerbread cookie just like Presidential children have done through the years! This free ranger-led program will provoke its participants to employ their senses to learn about the plants from which the cookie ingredients are derived. *The program will be held hourly between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th and Saturday, December 16th. Each session is limited to 25 children. Registration is required, please sign up at the Information Desk on the day of the event. A special surprise craft will also be offered for the holidays!*



★ HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE YARD

During the month of December the White House Visitor Center will offer many hands on holiday activities at the YARD – the Youth Activities Resources Desks. Children will learn how to wish their friends a Happy Holiday in many different languages. Seasonal reading presentations will be done. Activities will include an opportunity to create a holiday card! *Children should be accompanied by an adult.*

DAILY PROGRAMS AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily, Monday through Saturday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from approximately 20 minutes to one hour in length. More detailed descriptions of the day's programs are available at the Visitor Center Information Desk

WALKS THROUGH THE PARK

"December Walk" – Join a Park Ranger and walk through the Pageant of Peace site and bask in the warmth of its burning Yule log. *(December only)*

"Tree Identification Walk" – Discover some of the many species of trees in Presidents Park as their leaves take on autumn hues. *(October only)*

"A Walk Around the Park" – Walk through President's Park with a Park Ranger and discover some fascinating facts about this historic parcel of land surrounding the White House.

"A Walk Through President's Park" – Witness the layering of history that abounds in President's Park while enjoying the artistry embodied in the park's statues, fountains, memorials and monuments.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"The New Capitol City" – Washington, D.C. became the third capital of the U.S. Join a Park Ranger and discuss the history of the new capital city.

"Lincoln's Washington" – What did President Lincoln do when the Civil War came to the Washington area? A Park Ranger talks about the war.

"What's in this Place?" – Learn from a Park Ranger about the various themed exhibits in the Visitor Center.

"Washington's Washington" – It took land from Virginia and Maryland to create our new capital city. Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington, the man, and Washington, the city.



1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

"Inside the West Wing" – Explore the past and present of this presidential workplace.

"Canvas the Place!" – A fun and engaging hunt through the Visitor Center for replicas of art in the White House.

"Holidays in the White House" – How would you manage the task of decorating a 132 room mansion for the holidays? Learn how the White House staff has accomplished this assignment over the years.



MEN AND WOMEN IN HISTORY

Fall programs focus on residents of the White House.

"A Bird's Eye View of Theodore Roosevelt" – Who was this talented individual from New York known to many as the "Rough Rider?"

"Was He Impeached?" – Learn the story of Andrew Johnson and the controversy surrounding the first president to face impeachment proceedings.

"Unsung Hero of the Nixon Administration" – Discover the compelling story behind Pat Nixon's lesser-known service to her country during her husband's administration.

"Trials and Tribulations: Mary Todd Lincoln" – Judge how well you would have fared facing the challenges of being the wife of the 16th U.S. President.



PULL UP A SEAT

A video on the holiday theme and decorations within the White House will be shown daily from mid-December through Christmas.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

★ View the Center's Annual Holiday Exhibit, which includes a huge Christmas tree, as well as glimpses of the White House decorations. *The White House Visitor center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.*

★ On Mondays, December 4th, 11th and 18th and Saturday, December 30th, a special holiday Power Point interpretation program, "Beacon of Hope," will be presented on the history of the National Christmas Tree. This half hour program will be conducted by Peggy Eisenhower, a long time Volunteer-in-the-Parks (VIP) at President's Park. The program will take place in the Visitor Center at 11:30 a.m. *No reservations required.*



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Video Presentation



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1634 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.